

the Ambassador of Japan and a delegation of the Japanese Red Cross a certificate of thanks to be remitted to the donor. Almost at that same time, some members of the Japanese Red Cross who were in a party visiting the ICRC collected among themselves, a sum of over one thousand Swiss francs which was donated to the Fund.

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## Spain

### International First Aid Congress

From 26 October to 1 November 1972, the first International Congress on first aid and the transport of accident victims, organized by the Spanish Red Cross, was held in Barcelona. During the official inauguration, when Count de Toreno, President of the Supreme Assembly of the National Society, had welcomed the participants, an official ceremony took place to mark the centenary of the Barcelona section of the Spanish Red Cross. "If Henry Dunant were alive today, his concern for the distress in the world would be greater than it was for that on the battlefield at Solferino", said the President of the Barcelona section, Mr. J. L. de Salas Cardenal, who outlined in his address the main events in the history of the Red Cross.

In addition to representatives of the authorities, the Congress was attended by ICRC delegate Mr. Raymond Courvoisier, League delegate Mr. Vladimir I. Semoukha, and delegations from several National Societies from Latin America, Europe and the Middle East, as well as from the Red Cross sections in the provinces of Spain, the Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands. Mr. Courvoisier, who was presented with the Spanish Red Cross gold medal, conveyed the congratulations and good wishes of the ICRC and he described the most important present-day tasks of that institution.

The main themes of the working sessions and round-table meetings were: first aid on the highway, in the mountains and at

sea—emergency services in hospitals—safe driving—air rescue—the transport of casualties—first aid in industry and at work—accidents in the home—the ethics of organ transplants—the peaceful use of atomic energy and its medical aspect.

These discussions gave participants opportunities to give accounts of certain specially interesting activities undertaken by their National Societies, showing that humanitarian initiative not only gives immediate and effective assistance but also demonstrates that the Red Cross is ready to intervene everywhere for those who suffer. Such activities which might be mentioned, to quote only a few, were described in addresses by Dr. H. Jeschonnek, on mountain rescue; by Dr. J. F. Apolinario, on first aid, solidarity and peace; by Dr. G. Rosen, on aviation in land and sea rescue service; by Dr. A. C. Santos, on road accidents and their prevention; by Dr. A. Villalon, on first-aiders and accidents at work.

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## Guatemala

*Mr. Amado Padilla, Executive Secretary of the Guatemalan Red Cross, in a statement which we take pleasure in summarizing below, describes the many useful activities carried out by that Society.*

A 24-hour medico-surgical clinic is run at Red Cross headquarters. In an emergency, patients can be visited by a doctor. A permanent medical service sets up first-aid posts on the occasion of some public event, and they keep in touch with one another and with headquarters by means of radiotelephony.

The Red Cross has auxiliary teams, field hospitals, food supplies, medicaments and clothing. It appeals to first aiders and to women volunteers in case of disasters such as fire, floods, epidemics or earthquakes. It is prepared for any situation where a disaster may occur or events lead to some internal disturbance in any part of the country. Its branch delegations and sub-delegations render